

This learning guide is designed for use by Professional Learning Communities, learning coaches and teacher leaders, or as a self-paced study to enhance and support teacher practice in the area of literacy for students with significant disabilities.

## Literacy for All:

*In Conversation with  
Dr. Caroline Musselwhite*



This conversation guide is intended to be used after viewing the video clip, **Knowing the Difference between Teaching and Testing Questions**.



### General synopsis

In this short video clip, Dr. Caroline Musselwhite discusses the difference between teaching and testing questions.

### Key understandings

- Teaching questions are meaningful questions that facilitate learning by helping students develop strategies to consider information and respond to text, activities and/or questions.
- We often make the mistake of asking testing-type questions before teaching students the strategies needed to answer these types of questions.
- Good teaching questions are intentional, meaningful and engaging.
- Pragmatic questions and statements are socially appropriate and meaningful to a particular context.

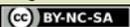
### Questions for discussion

- What one statement in this video clip caught your attention? Why?
- What does it mean to be “pragmatically appropriate?” Give an example of when you might have unintentionally been “pragmatically inappropriate.”
- Thinking about your instructional practice, can you identify new opportunities for asking authentic teaching questions?

### For more information

- Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium. *Literacy for All*. Retrieved from <http://abliteracyforall.wikispaces.com/>
- Musselwhite, C. *AAC intervention*. Retrieved from <http://aacintervention.com/>

#### Acknowledgement:

This guide was developed through a collaboration between Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium and Alberta Education. It is freely provided in support of improved teaching and learning under the following Creative Commons licence. 

Link to the Inclusive Education: Support for Implementation website at <http://inclusiveeducationpdresources.ca/> for Professional Development Resources.

For further information on learning opportunities to support inclusion, visit <http://www.arpdc.ab.ca/>.